We claim:

1. A DNA construct encoding a δ-zein, comprising a δ-zein coding sequence operably linked to a promoter and to a sequence encoding a modified 3' untranslated region (UTR), the 3' UTR being modified so as to be devoid of binding sites for a dzr1 negative regulatory protein.

2. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the modified 3' UTR is produced by replacing the sequence encoding the dzr1 binding site-containing 3'UTR with a heterologous sequence encoding a 3' UTR devoid of said binding sites.

3. The DNA construct of claim 2, wherein the heterologous sequence is a 3' UTR-encoding sequence from a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S gene.

4. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the modified 3' UTR is produced by site-directed mutagenesis of sequences encoding the binding sites.

5. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the δ-zein coding region encodes a δ-zein selected from the group consisting of a 10 kDa zein and an 18 kDa zein.

6. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the promoter is a seed-specific promoter.

7. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a 27 kDa zein gene promoter, a 27 kDa (02) zein gene promoter, a 10 kDa zein gene promoter and an 18 kDa zein gene promoter.

8. A vector for transforming a plant cell, comprising the DNA construct of claim 1.

9. A plant cell transformed with the vector of claim 8.

10. A fertile, transgenic plant regenerated from the transformed cell of claim 9.

11. A method of making high methionine corn seeds comprising the steps of:

a) producing a fertile transgenic corn plant expressing the DNA construct of claim 1;

b) growing the plant; and

c) harvesting seeds from the plant.

12. A chimeric gene encoding a 10 kDa zein, comprising a 10 kDa zein coding region operably linked at its 5' end to a promoter, and to its 3' end to a heterologous 3' UTR.

13. The chimeric gene of claim 12, in which the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a 27 kDa zein gene promoter, a 27 kDa (O2) zein gene promoter, a 10 kDa zein gene promoter and an 18 kDa zein gene promoter.

14~~15~~. The chimeric gene of claim 13, comprising a 10 kDa zein coding region operably linked to a 27 kDa zein gene promoter and a CaMV 35S gene 3' UTR.

15. A vector comprising the chimeric gene of claim 14.

16. The vector of claim 15, which is pJM2710.

17. A fertile transgenic corn plant which expresses the chimeric gene of claim 13.

18. A method of making high methionine corn seeds comprising the steps of:

a) producing a fertile transgenic corn plant expressing the chimeric gene of claim 11;

b) growing the plant; and

c) harvesting seeds from the plant.

19. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a 3' untranslated region of a 10-kDa zein gene.

20. The nucleic acid of claim 19, having SEQ ID NO:1.

21. A chimeric gene comprising a coding sequence operably linked to a promoter and the 3' untranslated region of claim 19.